

Muskogee Cimeter.

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An Up-to-Date Navy.

United States naval officers do not admit that the monster battleships planned by Great Britain and Italy are necessarily more effective than warships of the Connecticut-Louisiana and the Michigan-South Carolina types. Now that fuller details have reached here regarding the Cuniberti battleship, with which Italy expects to outclass the Dreadnaught, there is less disposition than ever to overestimate the importance of Italy's move. The assumption that the biggest battleship can whip one a few hundred tons smaller leaves out of account the matter of seamanship, brains, courage, marksmanship, and relative efficiency, says Harper's Weekly. American warships may not be as big as the biggest, but in personnel and equipment they equal anything afloat. Our newest warships have a steaming radius of 5,000 miles, much greater than that of any other battleships afloat. This is a very important element in the fighting efficiency of all war vessels, and one in which the large English and Italian battleships are likely to fail.

The Indifferent Citizen.

Indifference is the blight that affects all efforts for better things. The prosperous citizen is optimistically confident that things are going right and that any side-stepping must be only temporary. So he lets them go and is content to think that he, at least, has nothing to worry about. Comfortably fixed in the first cabin with all the luxuries of modern life about him, he cares nothing what other people in the same ship are doing—whether they are scuttling it, setting it afire or preparing a mutiny; all he knows or cares about is that it's mighty pleasant right where he is and that's enough. This negligence and indifference clear the way for those who do care and who have selfish ends to serve. All the deals and machinations that make modern politics disreputable are due, fundamentally, to the neglect of the great majority to be alert, says the Hartford, Conn., Courant. It is nonsense to say that society itself is rotten. It holds together just because of its sweet and wholesome strength. The practical element that lives on it is tolerated, not dominant.

Our Coal Supply.

Occasionally fears are expressed that the coal supply of the United States will give out. This apprehension is entertained because this country, while surpassing all others in production, is also the greatest coal consumer in the world. But every now and then comes the announcement of a new discovery which shows that the limit has not yet been reached. A vein in Pennsylvania has just been found which the experts say contains millions on millions of tons of coal, and they roughly estimate its value at \$50,000,000 to \$75,000,000. It is about as difficult to convince people of the danger of a complete exhaustion of the coal supply as it is to make them believe in the reality of an ice famine.

Fredrick Peterson, M. D., President of the New York Neurological Society and member of the New York Lunacy Commission, says that in the life in New York City the friction is greater than in any other known existence endured for long periods of time by large numbers of people. Each day finds presented the proof that more and more we are verging on the limits of human endurance.

Suggestions for the New State Constitution.

BY W. H. (COIN) HARVEY.

Note—All those who are studying the problem of civilization, and they are many, feel an interest in the constitution to be enacted by the new state of Oklahoma. It is an opportunity to benefit all mankind, whereby the new state may aid in solving the many questions now disturbing and vexing the world.

We, the people of the state of Oklahoma, in the enactment of a fundamental law for the guidance of ourselves and posterity, herewith first give emphasis to the following elementary principles upon which we believe a true civilization will be founded:

1. The true purpose of government should be the promotion and development of the human race.

2. The welfare of the individual is best served by promoting the good of all.

3. It is essential to the advancement of civilization that the people should be honest, self-reliant, industrious and home owners, and it should be the concern of all to protect and promote the common welfare, from which the individual receives the benefits of a civilization.

4. A nation is weak where a majority are tenants and lacking in self-reliance and industry. And on the other hand, where a people are home owners, industrious and self-reliant, they are stronger industrially, mentally, morally and physically.

5. Selfishness and vanity in the individual is an embarrassment to the true advancement of civilization, prompting the individual to pluck and injure the common good that he may selfishly promote self, and where this spirit is dominant in a government, and permitted to grow, it is crystallized into laws, becomes the mother of monarchy and tyranny and tends to the corruption and overthrow of civilization.

6. That form of government is best that will hold in check the vanity and selfishness of a people and at the same time develop an honest, self-respecting, self-reliant, public spirited and industrious people, having an earnest desire for the promotion and advancement of civilization.

In harmony with the foregoing principles, we the people of the state of Oklahoma, adopt the following constitution:

ARTICLE I.

Legislative Powers.

Section 1. All legislative power is vested in the people of the state, to be asserted through direct vote of the people in the form and manner hereinafter provided—except those things provided for in this constitution, which may be altered, changed or repealed, hereafter, by the people.

Sec. 2. The method of making laws shall be, first, by petition presented to the state board of directors, hereinafter provided for, signed by voters in number as many as five per cent of the votes polled at the last previous election for state officers, clearly setting forth the proposed law in form as it is desired to be passed and asking that it be submitted to the people. It shall be the duty of the state board of directors on the first Monday in October of each year by proclamation to publish, separately stated, all laws thus asked for, to be voted on the first Tuesday in March thereafter; and each proposed law that shall receive a majority of the votes cast shall become a law.

Sec. 3. Each proposed law shall have its object plainly set forth in its title and all signatures to the petition or petitions therefor shall be personally acknowledged before an officer authorized to take acknowledgments to deeds.

ARTICLE II.

Executive Department.

Section 1. The detail of carrying out the policy of the people is executive and is vested in a state board of directors and such other executive bodies as may be hereinafter provided for. The state board of directors shall consist of a governor, a secretary of state, a state auditor, a state treasurer and a state superintendent of schools, who shall be elected every two years, beginning with the year 1907 on the first Tuesday in March and installed in office on the second Tuesday in May following. Except that for the year 1907 said election of state officers shall be held.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the state board of directors to supervise and direct all business of the state; to submit to the people for their approval or disapproval all proposed laws properly petitioned for, and to carry out the will of the people.

Sec. 3. The first state board of directors will adopt by-laws to govern them and their successors in office, in their proceedings, wherein a majority will rule; and wherein the duties and responsibilities of each will be defined; but any part of said by-laws may be amended, altered or repealed by said board or its successors in office at any time by a majority vote upon 10 days' notice to each member.

Sec. 4. The attorney general and all other state officers, not herein provided for, shall be appointed by the state board of directors and removed by them at will. And it shall be lawful for the state board of directors in its by-laws to confer this power on the governor.

A Code of Laws.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the state board of directors to appoint a commission of five men to be known as the "Code Commission to compile a Code of

civil and criminal procedure, and said state board of directors may removed and fill vacancies in said commission at its pleasure.

Secs. 2, 3, and 4 provide for powers of Code Commission and practically covers go under this article will naturally suggest itself.

Sec. 5. Said Code Commission first appointed shall immediately enter upon its duties and as soon as practicable shall complete and publish said Code of laws. And it shall publish first in said Code of laws this constitution, secondly the by-laws of the state board of directors, thirdly the by-laws or manual it shall adopt to govern its own proceedings. Said Code Commission and its successors shall meet as often and remain in session as long as its duties and public business justify. It shall give public hearings under reasonable regulations. It shall publish annually all changes made in the Code of laws and as often as it deems proper it shall publish a revised edition of the Code of laws.

ARTICLE IV.

The Judiciary.

Section 1. The judiciary of the state shall consist of one supreme court; circuit courts, county courts with probate jurisdiction, and justices of the peace. The Code Commission will also provide for such municipal courts as it may deem advisable. It may also in such counties as seem to be proper provide for a separate chancery court and a separate probate court.

Sec. 2. All judges and justices of the peace shall be elected by the people.

Note—The remainder of what should

ARTICLE V.

Public Schools.

Section 1. Intelligence and virtue being safeguards of liberty and the bulwark of a free and good government, the state shall ever maintain a general, suitable and efficient system of free schools, whereby all persons in the state between the ages of 8 and 21 years may receive gratuitous instruction.

Sec. 2. Prejudice, vanity, selfishness and ignorance are the fruitful causes of dissension, corruption and failure in government. To eliminate these evils and create a broad minded, self respecting, public spirited and honest citizenship is an educational question, most important to all branches of government.

Sec. 3. Education, such as commonly imparted in schools, equips with power those of evil intentions as well as those of good intentions and to the extent that education aids the former it may work injury to the state. It is therefore ordained that the preamble to this constitution be printed with large plain type, framed and put on the wall in each school house where all the school children may daily read the same. And the state superintendent of schools shall cause to be provided a non-partisan primer on the subjects in said preamble to be used by the teachers in such way as may be found best to impart its instruction.

Sec. 4. The public schools shall consist of as many schools and school buildings in each school district as the trustees may decide and the funds available may provide for and said school buildings shall be substantially built, well ventilated and commodious in character.

Sec. 5. There shall be located and built by the state board of directors two normal school buildings in which schools shall be conducted solely for the training of teachers, and the preamble to this constitution shall in a like manner as in other schools be publicly exhibited in the main room of said buildings, and those preparing themselves for teachers shall be proficient in the subject thereof before being awarded a diploma from said schools.

Sec. 6. Upon the issuance by the state board of directors of the proclamation containing proposed laws to be voted on by the people, among other methods of publishing and distributing the same, the state superintendent of schools shall immediately mail a sufficient supply to each school teacher in the state to be distributed to the pupils to be taken home by them to their parents.

Sec. 7. Each school house shall be free to the use of the citizens of the school district in which it is located to discuss all proposed laws submitted to the people. Provided, however, such meetings shall be timed so as not to interfere with the regular school session, except, where desired by the election judges, the school house may be used in which to hold elections. It being the purpose to make the school house the corner stone of this constitution.

ARTICLE VI.

Congressmen.

The article provides for the election of United States senators and congressmen by the people.

ARTICLE VII.

General Principles.

Section 1. It is the intention of this constitution to vest in the people all matters of legislation except non-essentials and matters pro forma, that are vested in a Code Commission; and to vest executive power in a few competent, successful and capable business men of character and integrity who are expected to conduct the business of the state with the ability and success that successful business men conduct private affairs.

Note—Under this heading there should be inserted many clauses that may be found in the constitutions of other states.

ARTICLE VIII.

Amendments—New Constitution.

Section 1. All laws voted by the people

will be amendments to this constitution and will annul, repeal or amend any parts hereof in conflict therewith.

Sec. 2. A constitutional convention may be called at any time in the usual manner of making laws by the people, namely: By petitions signed by as many as five per cent of the number of voters voting at the last preceding state election and upon the same being adopted by a majority of the votes cast. Whereupon it shall become the duty of the state board of directors to issue a call for such constitutional convention with a basis representation, for the election of delegates, as follows: * * * And it shall fix a date for the election of convention delegates not more than six months distant from the election deciding to call the same; and a date for the convening of such constitutional convention not more than 90 days after the election of delegates.

Note—The foregoing suggestion of a constitution does not attempt to go into all details, but only into so much as is new and different from other constitutions. There should be clauses providing for indebtedness and many other things that will suggest themselves. An article on primary elections should be inserted providing for nomination of candidates, framed to permit the voters to give first, second and third choice so as to show a clear majority for one candidate. I have fixed March instead of November, as is usual for state elections, because winter is a better time for people to weigh and consider questions than summer. It is the season of the year when people read and reflect the most. If it is claimed that such a constitution would be objectionable to the constitution of the United States, it is answered by article 2, section 10 of amendments to the constitution of the United States, which reads: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states, respectively, or to the people."

The constitution here proposed omits a legislature. Where a simple democracy is provided for, a legislature is not necessary. Experience teaches that legislatures are objectionable—resulting in too much legislation; in the election of an unbusiness-like body, lacking in statesmanship; and in corruption and confusion of ideas. The form of government here proposed is intended to educate and enlighten the people; to place the execution of their wishes in the hands of a few whom they can hold directly responsible, instead of in the hands of many who can shift the responsibility for laches and negligence, one upon the other—and the election of a judiciary, by the people, that will pass upon their form of government on all questions arising in the courts.

TO ESTABLISH PEOPLE'S LOBBY.

MUSKOGEE: In consideration of the fact that many large interests throughout the country will be represented by lobbyists at the constitutional convention which meets at Guthrie November 20, there is strong sentiment here which is expected to result in a "people's lobby," to keep tab on the corporation interests during the convention. This "lobby" will be composed of representatives of the people, who will look after their interests, watching carefully the moves of the men who are working for large interests. The work of each of the delegates, his backing and motive for measures he supports, will be among the things heeded by the "people's lobby."

Lobbyists and grafters are assembling in Guthrie ready to protect the interests which pay them good money for their work. It is said that it will be especially so during the constitutional convention. There are many reasons given in support of this statement. Should the new state adopt a reform method against the corporations, other states will seek to follow the precedent established and demand similar laws. This gives the corporations unusual interest in the movements of the law makers of the new state, and it is quite probable that it will be a fight to the finish. The Standard Oil company, the book trust, and the railroads are already charged with "feeling" the delegates and attempting to influence them into the corporation way of thinking. While the time for conferring with the delegates individually has been too brief for any material action, it is safe to assume that the representatives of these three trusts will be on the ground, and are already fairly acquainted with the situation. The Standard Oil can see fields of oil in the new state, which are well worth investigation; there are at present 6,000 miles of railroad in operation; and the book trusts are wanting to furnish text books for the schools of Oklahoma.